

Department of Energy (DOE) Fire Safety Committee

Minutes of the June 23, 2004 meeting

Written by: Jim Bisker, Chairman

The meeting was held at the Tuscany Hotel (Las Vegas, Nevada) in conjunction with the Year 2004 DOE/Contractor Fire Safety Workshop (hosted by the Nevada Test Site).

DOE Facility Safety Order Revisions

Committee members present were informed that the DOE O 420.1 revision should be out for official comments imminently and will include all subject areas covered in the order. Previously, EH was intending to issue fire protection proposals separately (to accommodate a DNFSB commitment) and then address the other subject areas in a second revision. It was decided however, to coordinate the Order's text with the proposed Worker Health and Safety rule for all subject areas in a single revision. The chairman reminded members that the proposals being sent out were discussed in a November teleconference, but final edits were under the discretion of the director of EH 2.2. Any issues relating to text revisions since November should be handled through the formal comment resolution process. **UPDATE:** As a management courtesy EH forwarded the current draft to DNFSB, NNSA, EM and NE management. To date we have received comments from NNSA and DNFSB comments are pending. If their comments turn out to be substantial, then the committee may be allowed to review, comment, or modify the latest revisions before the REVCOM submittal. If this happens, it will most likely need to be turned around within a week or two. A copy of the current draft is being sent to committee members as an attachment to these minutes.

Concerning the Order revision, committee members discussed an FHA review frequency and concluded that language should be added to have an annual review (and update as necessary) to coordinate with DSA reviews. Additionally, the Order's implementation guide should be revised to differentiate between an: FHA, assessment report or other building specific fire protection documentation (such as a building code analysis). One suggestion was to create a "documentation time line based on occupancy". As support to this initiative, there may also be a need to publish an FHA for a nuclear facility and an FHA for a non-nuclear facility (on the Fire Protection Web site).

DOE Performance Measures

A subcommittee was established to evaluate fire protection reporting requirements contained within Chapter 7 of DOE M 231.1-1A based on value added, need, and reporting accuracy. This subcommittee is also charged with evaluating an acceptable base of performance indicators and the metrics associated with collecting and reporting such data to headquarters on a periodic (annual) basis. This may include information collected by DOE fire departments via run logs and the mechanisms associated with the

collection of such data in a unified method. Members of the subcommittee are as follows: Boyce, Christenson, Hutton, Bisker.

Information Sharing

EH 2.2 is proceeding to update the fire protection Website. Current initiatives underway are to verify that all links are valid. Next, EH will completely rewrite the site with the expectation that it will match current DOE publishing standards and be easier to use. EH will also re-explain how someone can modify their Record and post messages to the Directory's listserver (INEEL'S fireenger listserver is no longer being maintained). EH will also be issuing a master plan for document revisions (starting with the Facility Safety Order, The implementation Guide, 1066..) and will be seeking volunteers to assist in this effort. Craig Christenson has expressed an interest in revising the FPE Qualification Standard that he spearheaded last cycle. Committee members suggested that new guidelines be established (possibly in the 420.1 implementation guide) to address what the differences are between an exemption and an equivalency. Also, site closure guidance is needed either in the implementation guide or as a separate document.

For additional information on these minutes or the DOE Fire Safety Committee, please contact Jim Bisker on (301) 903-654 (jim.bisker@eh.doe.gov).